

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

[0062] Support plate 24, shown in Figure (8a) in top view, contains a plurality of straight channels 26 which run parallel to one another and to membranes 4. When the membrane module is assembled, channels 26 open into the respective slot 16 in membrane pack holder 14 at one end of support plate 24. For example, support plate 24 may be made of sheet metal which is provided with webs 28 (as in the sectional view of Figure 8 (b)), or it is bent multiple times (as in the sectional view of Figure 8 (c)), thereby forming channels 26.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] Webs 28 may be made very thin or pointed, so that holes 23 in support foil 22 are covered as little as possible. As indicated with an arrow in Figure 4, the permeate gas having flowed through holes 23 flows through straight channels 26 to the permeate gas outlet with minimal pressure loss.